

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) An insertion instrument configured for inserting a multi-part intervertebral endoprosthesis comprising[[:]] two closure plates and a sliding core arranged between the closure plates, ~~an~~ the insertion instrument comprising:

a handgrip part,

gripping members which ~~hold~~ are configured to clamp the closure plates between them and which have projections pointing in a clamping direction or recesses for holding the intervertebral endoprosthesis formed thereon,

a hinge between the gripping members,

a force-receiving part for applying an insertion force to the intervertebral endoprosthesis, projections pointing in a tensioning direction or recesses for holding the intervertebral endoprosthesis with a form fit formed on the gripping members, and

a block guided in the longitudinal axis direction of the insertion instrument and an actuating device,

the block being provided with an abutment surface and configured to be movable in a tensioning direction different from the clamping direction by ~~an~~ the actuating device so as to bear on the intervertebral endoprosthesis and, in a forward position, so as to secure the intervertebral endoprosthesis in the tensioning direction against the projections or recesses,

wherein the gripping members are configured to be guided movably toward and away from one another via the hinge and to be tensioned against the intervertebral endoprosthesis.

2. (Currently Amended) The insertion instrument according to claim 1, wherein the insertion instrument is designed as forceps pliers whose jaw parts form the gripping parts.

3. (Previously Presented) The insertion instrument according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the actuating device is a rod with a handle arranged in the rear area of the handgrip part.

4. (Previously Presented) The insertion instrument according to claim 3, wherein the rod

is provided with a screw thread and is guided in a counter thread which is fixed on the instrument and arranged in the hinge.

5. (Previously Presented) The insertion instrument according to claim 2, wherein the actuating device is guided through the hinge.

6. (Previously Presented) The insertion instrument according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the handle is designed as a strike head.

7. (Previously Presented) The insertion instrument according to claim 1 or 2, further comprising a locking device provided for securing the handgrip parts in the position when pressed together, the locking device having a guide for the actuating device.

8. (Previously Presented) The insertion instrument according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the projections are arranged on jaw inserts which are fastened releasably on the jaw parts.

9. (Previously Presented) The insertion instrument according to claim 7, wherein the actuating device is a rod with a handle arranged in the rear area of the handgrip part.

10. (Previously Presented) The insertion instrument according to claim 8, wherein the actuating device is a rod with a handle arranged in the rear area of the handgrip part.

11. (Previously Presented) The insertion instrument according to claim 4, further comprising a locking device provided for securing the handgrip parts in the position when pressed together, the locking device having a guide for the actuating device.

12. (Previously Presented) The insertion instrument according to claim 8, further comprising a locking device provided for securing the handgrip parts in the position when pressed together, the locking device having a guide for the actuating device.

13. (New) An insertion system for a multi-part intervertebral endoprosthesis, comprising:

two closure plates and a sliding core arranged between the closure plates, and an insertion instrument comprising a handgrip part, gripping members which hold the closure plates between them and which have projections pointing in a clamping direction or recesses for holding the intervertebral endoprosthesis formed thereon, a hinge

between the gripping members, a force-receiving part for applying an insertion force to the intervertebral endoprosthesis, a block guided in a longitudinal axis direction of the insertion instrument and an actuating device,

the block being provided with an abutment surface configured to be movable by the actuating device so as to bear on the intervertebral endoprosthesis and, in a forward position, so as to secure the intervertebral endoprosthesis in a tensioning direction different from the clamping direction against the projections or recesses, and

wherein the gripping members are configured to be guided movably toward and away from one another via the hinge and to be tensioned against the intervertebral endoprosthesis.

14. (New) The insertion system according to claim 13, wherein the insertion instrument is configured as pliers whose jaw parts form the gripping parts.

15. (New) The insertion system according to claim 13 or 14, wherein the actuating device is a rod with a handle arranged in the rear area of the handgrip part.

16. (New) The insertion system according to claim 15, wherein the rod is provided with a screw thread and is guided in a counter thread which is fixed on the instrument and arranged in the hinge.

17. (New) The insertion system according to claim 14, wherein the actuating device is guided through the hinge.